

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
AUGUSTA DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
v.)
)
KATHY BUFFINGTON)

CONSENT ORDER OF FORFEITURE

WHEREAS, on August 3, 2016, a federal grand jury sitting in the Southern District of Georgia returned a four-count Indictment against Defendant Kathy Buffington and Donnie Joe Wilson charging violations of 21 U.S.C. § 846 (Count One – Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Controlled Substances); 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) (Count Two – Possession with Intent to Distribute Controlled Substances); 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) (Count Three – Possession of a Firearm During a Drug Trafficking Crime); and 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) (Count Four – Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon);

WHEREAS, the Indictment sought forfeiture pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c) of any firearms and ammunition involved in the commission of the offenses charged in Counts One through Four of the Indictment;

WHEREAS, the Indictment further provided for the forfeiture of substitute assets pursuant to 21 U.S.C § 853(p) as incorporated by 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c) of any other property of Defendant up to the value of the property subject to forfeiture;

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2016, pursuant to a written plea agreement, Defendant pled guilty to Count One of the Indictment charging a violation of 21

U.S.C. § 846, Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Controlled Substances;

WHEREAS, pursuant to her plea agreement, Defendant agreed to forfeit her interest in any firearms and ammunition involved or used in the knowing commission of the offense to which she has pled guilty, including but not limited to one Taurus .22 caliber pistol bearing serial number 33047Z (the "Subject Property"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to her plea agreement, Defendant agreed to waive the requirements of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 11(b)(1)(J), 32.2, and 43(a) regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment without further order of the Court.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

1. Pursuant 18 U.S.C. § 924(d), 28 U.S.C. 2461(c) and Rule 32.2(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Government has established the requisite nexus between the Subject Property and the offenses committed by Defendant, and the Subject Property is hereby forfeited to the United States.

2. Upon the entry of this Order, in accordance with Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(3), the Attorney General (or a designee) is authorized to seize the Subject Property, and to conduct any discovery that may assist in identifying, locating or disposing of the Subject Property, any property traceable thereto, or any property that may be forfeited as substitute assets.

3. Upon entry of this Order, the Attorney General (or a designee) is authorized to commence any applicable proceeding to comply with statutes governing third-party rights, including giving notice of this Order. No such notice or ancillary proceeding is necessary to the extent that this Order consists solely as a judgment for a sum of money. *See* Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(c)(1).

4. Any person, other than the above-named defendant, asserting a legal interest in the Subject Property may, within thirty days of the final publication of notice or receipt of notice, whichever is earlier, petition the court for a hearing without a jury to adjudicate the validity of his alleged interest in the Subject Property, and for an amendment of the order of forfeiture, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

5. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(3), this Consent Order of Forfeiture shall become final as to Defendant at the time of sentencing and shall be made part of the sentence and included in the judgment. If no third party files a timely claim, this Order shall become the Final Order of Forfeiture, as provided by Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(c)(2).

6. Any petition filed by a third party asserting an interest in the Subject Property shall be signed by the petitioner under penalty of perjury and shall set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title, or interest in the Subject Property, the time and circumstances of the petitioner's acquisition of the right, title or interest in the Subject Property, and any additional facts supporting the petitioner's claim and the relief sought.

7. If a petition is filed by a third party, and after the disposition of any motion filed under Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(c)(1)(A) and before a hearing on the petition, discovery may be conducted in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure upon a showing that such discovery is necessary or desirable to resolve factual issues.

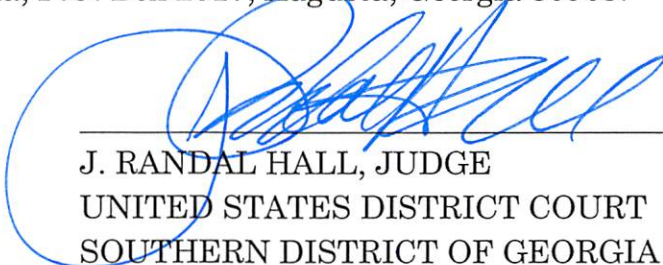
8. The United States shall have clear title to the Subject Property following the Court's disposition of all third-party interests, or if none, following the expiration of the period provided in 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(2) for the filing of third-party petitions.

9. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce this Order, and to amend it as necessary, pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(e).

10. The Clerk of the Court shall forward four certified copies of this Order to Assistant U.S. Attorney Patricia G. Rhodes, United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia, P.O. Box 2017, Augusta, Georgia 30903.

Date:

12/16/16



J. RANDAL HALL, JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

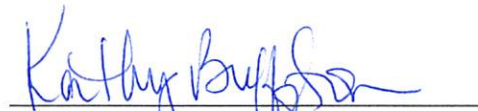
WE ASK FOR THIS:




Patricia G. Rhodes
Assistant United States Attorney
Georgia Bar Number 307288
P.O. Box 2017
Augusta, Georgia 30903
(706) 724-0517

Date:

12/16/2016



Kathy Buffington
Defendant



Michael N. Loebl, Esq.
Attorney for Defendant

Date:

12/16/2016